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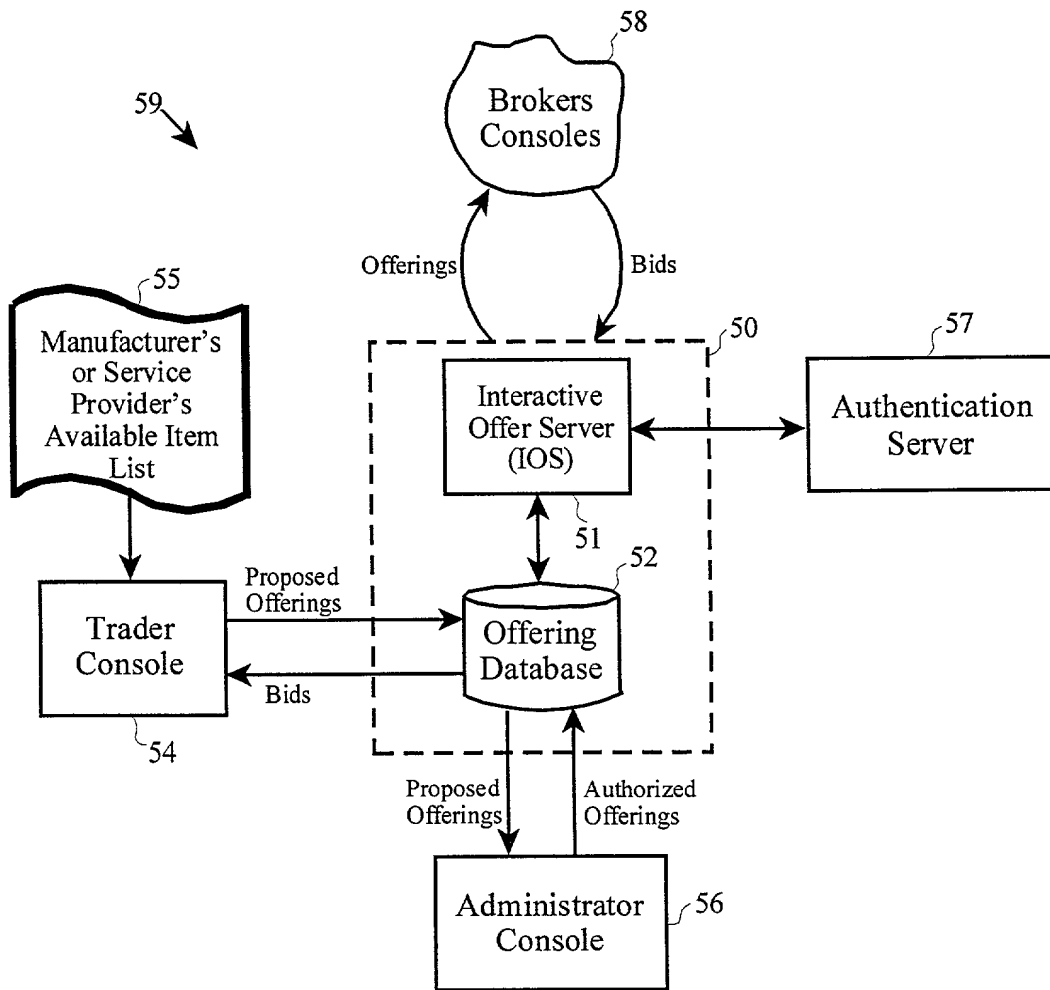


Figure 1

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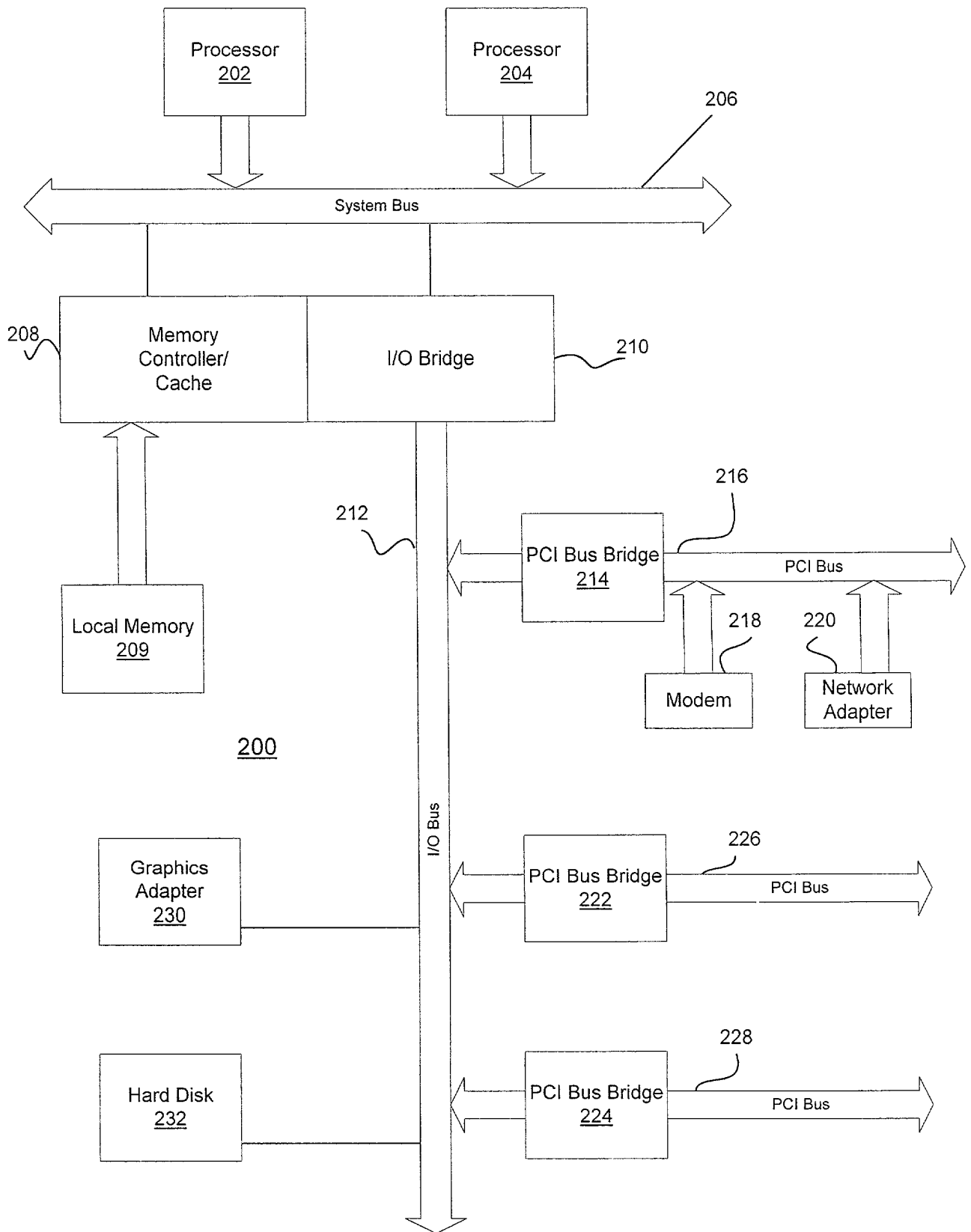


Figure 2
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Figure 3 is a block diagram of a computer system architecture. The diagram shows a central Bus 306 connecting various components. At the top, Processor 302 is connected to Host/PCI Cache/Bridge 308, which is connected to Main Memory 304. An Audio Adapter 316 is also connected to the bus. Below the bus, a dashed box contains a SCSI Host Bus Adapter 312, which is connected to Disk 326, Tape 328, and CD-ROM 330. A LAN Adapter 310 is connected to the bus and a network (300). An Expansion Bus Interface 314 connects the bus to a secondary bus, which then connects to a Keyboard and Mouse Adapter 320, a Modem 322, and Memory 324. A Graphics Adapter 318 and an Audio/Video Adapter 319 are also connected to the bus.

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graph TD
    Start([Start 400]) --> 402[Offer an item for auction using an interactive auction model specifying a min. bid and a min. increment for the item. 402]
    402 --> 404[Determine a current high bid for the item 404]
    404 --> 406{Receive a new bid for the item 406}
    406 -- NO --> 408{Is new bid greater than or equal to the current high bid plus the specified min. increment? 408}
    406 -- YES --> 440{Offer closed 440}
    408 -- NO --> 410[Display refusal to record bid 410]
    408 -- YES --> 412{Any proxy bids already placed for the item 412}
    412 -- NO --> 414[Record new bid as current high bid 414]
    412 -- YES --> 416[Retrieve largest, earliest recorded proxy bid 416]
    416 --> 418{Does proxy bid exceed new bid 418}
    418 -- NO --> 422[Record new bidder as holder of current high bid 422]
    418 -- YES --> 420{Does new bid include a proxy bid 420}
    420 -- NO --> 430[Record proxy bidder as holder of current high bid 430]
    420 -- YES --> 426{Is new proxy greater than old proxy 426}
    426 -- NO --> 430
    426 -- YES --> 428[Record new bidder as holder of current high bid 428]
    430 --> 432[Calculate a proposed bid by adding min. increment to current high bid 432]
    432 --> 434{Does proposed bid exceed proxy bid 434}
    434 -- NO --> 436[Record proposed bid as current high bid. 436]
    434 -- YES --> 438[Record proxy bid as current high bid. 438]
    436 --> 441[Display refusal to record bid 441]
    438 --> 441
    441 --> 442[Award item to bidder who submitted current high bid 442]
    442 --> 444[End 444]
    440 -- YES --> 441
    440 -- NO --> 404
  
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